

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1994****MAIN FEATURES**

This edition of *ACT Business Indicators* sees the inclusion for the first time of seasonally adjusted and trend data for total new housing finance commitments, as well as seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle registrations.

The May edition also includes the data from the new quarterly publication, *Tourism Indicators, Australia*. This publication includes data in seasonally adjusted and trend form to provide a clearer picture of underlying patterns in the accommodation market as well as drawing together other tourism-related information sources and data from less frequent ABS collections.

Series updated since the April 1994 issue are: quarterly average weekly earnings, monthly building approvals; quarterly building commencements; quarterly tourist accommodation; monthly housing finance; monthly labour force; monthly new motor vehicle registrations; quarterly CPI; quarterly established house price index; monthly price indexes of house building materials and monthly retail turnover.

Notable increases have occurred in the following series:

- Trend average weekly earnings in the ACT increased by 1.5 per cent for all persons in the February quarter 1994. Nationally the increase was only 0.1 per cent for the same period. The annual increase to February 1994 for the ACT was 5.4 per cent compared with 2.1 per cent for Australia.
- Building approvals in the ACT were up for all sectors except for the value of non-residential in the month of March 1994. The total number of dwelling units approved increased by 117, or 48.5 per cent, from February 1994. The value of new residential and residential alterations and additions increased by similar amounts (32.9% and 38.3% respectively), while the value of non-residential building approvals fell by 30.6 per cent.

- With an average growth in the trend estimate for the number of dwellings financed of 2.4 per cent over the past six months, the trend for the ACT only increased by 1.1 per cent in March 1994.

- Original new motor vehicle registrations in the ACT during March 1994 rose by 21.5 per cent from the previous month. This compares with a national increase of 14.7 per cent for the same period.

- Original estimates of retail turnover in the ACT for the month of March 1994 showed strong growth for both Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs and Department and general stores (45.2% and 27.3% respectively). Total retail turnover for the ACT was 17.2 per cent higher than the previous month. This compares with 15.0 per cent nationally for the same period.

Other notable movements include:

- New house building commencements in the ACT fell by 32.5 per cent in the December quarter 1993, and by 39.0 per cent from the same period in the previous year. Nationally the quarterly change was a decline of 3.0 per cent but the annual change showed growth of 3.6 per cent.
- Trend series room nights occupied has been fairly volatile since early 1992. While there appears to be an upturn in the trend in the latest quarter, it is still considerably lower than the peak figure reached in early 1993.
- Trend series takings from accommodation has followed that of room nights but has been marginally stronger. As a result there has been a small increase in the average takings per room night. In constant 1989-90 prices, returns per room night have been fairly volatile, particularly in

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**INQUIRIES**

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Leonie Peardon on Canberra (06) 207 0286 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, 252 5402, 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

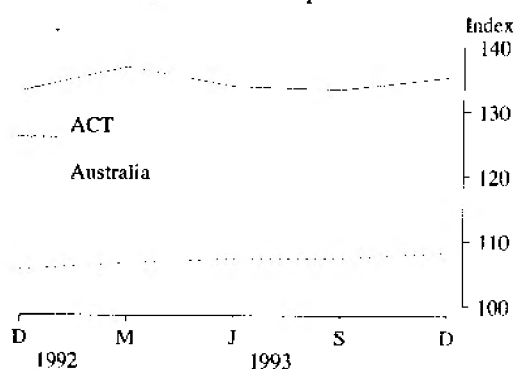
recent quarters. In general, however, these have tended to fall.

- Trend series unemployment rates in the ACT have declined for the seventh consecutive month to 7.0 per cent in April 1994. Nationally the trend rate of unemployment has been in decline since September 1993 to reach 10.2 per cent in April 1994.

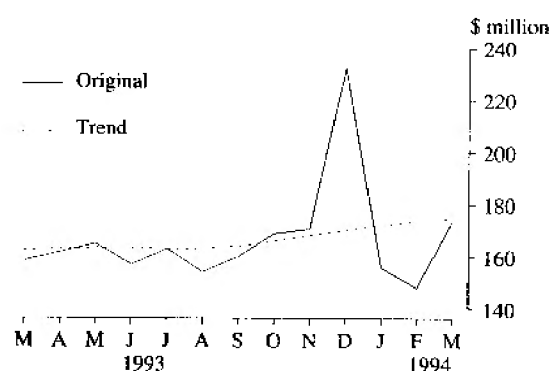
- The ACT, together with WA, recorded the lowest increase in prices in the March quarter 1994. The all groups consumer price index for the ACT showed prices increased by 0.1 per cent from the December quarter of 1993 and by 1.2 per cent from the March quarter of 1993. Nationally the increases were 0.4 and 1.4 percentage points respectively.

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

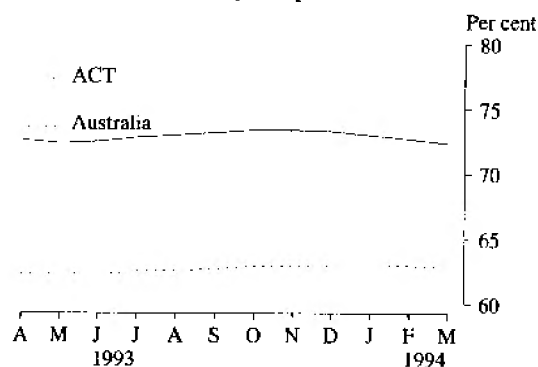
**PRICES**  
Established house price index



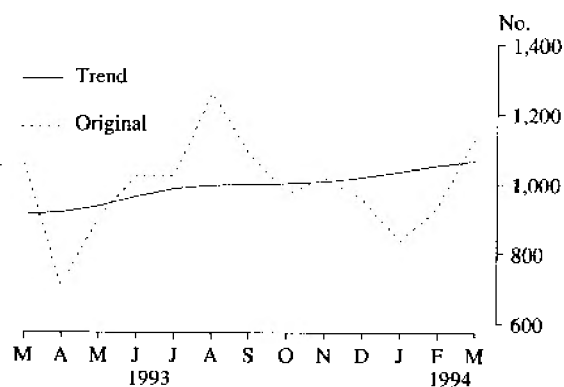
**RETAIL TURNOVER**



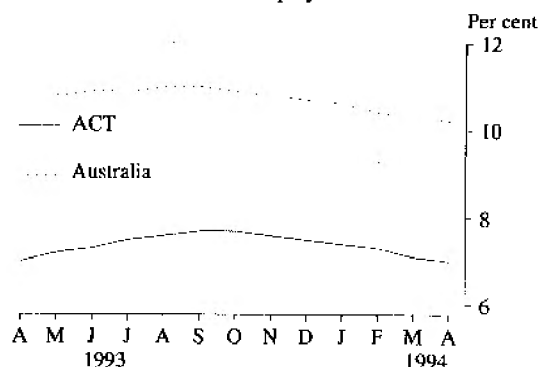
**LABOUR FORCE**  
Trend participation rates



**MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS**



**LABOUR FORCE**  
Trend unemployment rates



**TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**  
Hotels, motels and guest houses  
Room nights occupied

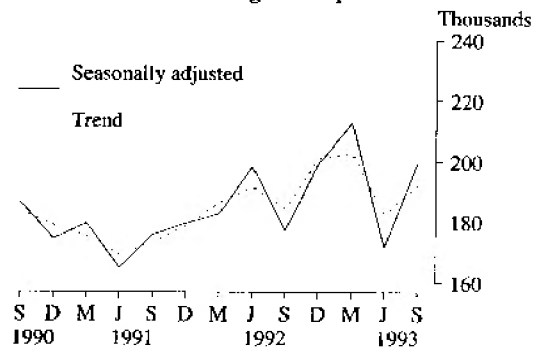


TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,  
MARCH QUARTER 1994/MARCH QUARTER 1995  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Short-term		
March 1994	-0.4	-1.4
June 1994	1.6	1.9
Medium-term		
December 1994	2.8	3.1
March 1995	3.7	3.9

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1994

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>Average weekly earnings, February 94</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	712.50	3.2	7.0	625.60	1.1	2.4
Females	\$	490.40	2.6	4.3	416.80	2.2	1.7
Persons	\$	601.30	2.9	6.2	529.00	1.4	2.1
Trend series							
Males	\$	706.50	2.3	6.5	621.40	0.2	2.4
Females	\$	482.20	0.2	3.4	411.00	—	1.8
Persons	\$	594.40	1.5	5.4	523.30	0.1	2.1
<b>Building approvals, March 94</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	358	48.5	9.5	16 512	18.9	4.8
Value of new residential	\$m	32.7	32.9	7.6	1 463.1	23.9	14.9
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	6.5	38.3	8.3	203.3	17.0	8.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	13.6	-30.6	-71.0	596.7	-23.6	-8.5
Value of total building	\$m	52.9	8.0	-36.5	2 263.1	6.0	7.0
<b>Building commencements, December quarter 93</b>							
New houses	no.	410	-32.5	-39.0	31 703	-3.0	3.6
Value of houses commenced	\$m	49.8	-24.1	-26.3	2 892.7	-1.4	7.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	34.5	-45.5	-2.8	2 115.7	14.3	11.5
<b>Hotels, motels and guest house accommodation, September quarter 93</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	no.	199.8	6.8	12.0	8 360.5	8.5	6.7*
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.6	4.4	16.1	672.2	9.9	8.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.1	4.9	17.1	581.9	8.7	6.6
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	no.	199.6	16.1	12.5	8 042.2	—	6.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.7	6.4	17.6	649.4	0.2	8.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.1	6.3	18.0	562.8	-0.7	6.4
Trend series							
Room nights	no.	192.2	5.1	4.2	8 055.6	0.4	6.3
Takings at current prices	\$m	16.4	1.9	9.3	650.5	0.8	7.6
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	14.9	-1.3	4.9	564.3	—	5.3
<b>Housing finance, March 94</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	11.7	50.0	-3.3	863.9	21.3	31.7
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	24.7	57.3	51.5	255.1	9.7	54.3
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	85.0	5.5	42.4	3 932.1	20.7	35.2
Total new housing commitments	\$m	133.2	15.4	35.4	5 051.1	20.2	35.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	112.8	-0.8	33.5	4 253.1	-0.8	34.8
Trend series							
Total new housing commitments	\$m	112.3	2.2	30.0	4 257.9	1.9	34.7
<b>Industrial disputes in progress, January 94</b>							
Working days lost	'000	—	-100.0	—	5.3	-72.3	-7.0
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended May 92)	no.	76	-1.3	280.0	108	—	-31.6
<b>Interstate road freight movement, December quarter 93</b>							
Originating	'000 tonnes	46.6	-38.1	18.0	4 658.3	4.5	-5.9
Receiving	'000 tonnes	136.1	2.6	-20.3	4 658.3	4.5	-5.9
<b>Labour force, April 94 p</b>							
Job vacancies (February quarter 94)	'000	1.5	36.4	50.0	45.9	20.2	54.0
Original series							
Employed	'000	152.2	-0.5	-2.8	7 835.5	—	3.1
Unemployed	'000	11.7	—	1.7	883.2	-7.0	-4.2
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.2	1.4	4.3	10.1	-6.5	-6.5
Participation rate(a)	%	72	-0.6	-1.4	62.7	-0.9	1.1

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, MAY 1994 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>Labour force, April 94 p — continued</b>							
Trend series							
Employed	'000	152.8	-0.1	1.6	7 836.3	0.1	2.7
Unemployed	'000	11.5	-2.5	0.9	887	-1.2	-4.6
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.0	-1.4	—	10.2	-1.0	-6.4
Participation rate(a)	%	7.2	-0.3	-0.6	62.7	-0.2	0.6
<b>New motor vehicle registrations, March 94 p</b>							
Original motor vehicles	no.	1 131	21.5	7.0	52 686	14.7	2.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 000	-5.3	6.8	45 755	-9.4	1.7
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 067	1.4	17.3	48 713	1.2	8.4
<b>Population, September quarter 93</b>							
Natural increase	'000	299	—	1.3	17 712.7	0.3	1.1
Net migration	no.	795	-7.0	-5.5	32.1	-9.1	-0.9
Total increase	no.	82	127.4	12.3	17.2	-1 835.8	55.0
	no.	877	57.7	-4.0	49.3	43.3	13.3
<b>Prices</b>							
Consumer Price Index, All groups (Mar. 94)	(1989-90=100.0)	111.4	0.1	1.2	110.4	0.4	1.4
Established house price index (Dec. qtr. 93)	(1989-90=100.0)	135.3	1.4	1.7	108.4	0.9	2.7
Price index of house building materials (Mar. 94)(b)		151.3	-0.1	5.7	153.1	0.3	4.6
<b>Retail turnover, March 94</b>							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	55.4	10.1	11.2	2 647.7	12.3	8.9
Department and general stores	\$m	21.9	27.3	8.4	813.1	23.6	8.9
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	13.5	45.2	22.7	1 070.0	13.6	13.1
All other stores	\$m	82.9	16.1	6.8	4 082.4	15.6	10.4
Total	\$m	173.7	17.2	9.5	8 613.2	15.0	10.1
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	54.6	0.6	9.4	2 543.8	0.5	5.0
Department and general stores	\$m	23.8	1.3	1.3	909.9	0.7	2.2
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	11.9	1.7	7.2	1 057.1	0.8	9.1
All other stores	\$m	84.7	0.5	8.6	4 105.1	0.9	7.6
Total	\$m	175.0	0.7	7.7	8 615.9	0.7	6.4
<b>State accounts, December quarter 93</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 453	2.5	8.1	114 399	10.1	6.7
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 037	5.2	2.7	99 997	6.0	1.7
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 406	6.9	6.8	70 097	7.7	5.4
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	285	5.2	-12.0	16 449	8.0	-2.1
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 322	0.7	6.9	106 555	1.3	5.9
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 935	-0.1	1.8	95 206	0.5	1.6
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 334	1.9	6.0	66 152	1.4	4.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure and components	\$m	271	-4.6	-7.2	15 357	1.5	2.8

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8635.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9303.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.	ACT
Employed persons (original)	'000	Apr. 94p	2 630.5	1 960.4	1 403.5	636.4	787	194	71.5	7 835.5
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Apr. 94p	9.9	11.4	9.7	10.7	8.3	11.7	8.2	10.2
Consumer price index: All groups (1989-90=100.0)		Mar. qtr 94	109.1	111.2	110.8	113.6	108.6	111.9	111.4	110.4
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time	\$	Mar. qtr 94	630.80	604.70	581.00	597.30	608.00	592.90	628.90	667.00
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Mar. 94	3 018	2 035	1 519.5	658.9	887	216.5	n.p.	8 615.9
New motor vehicle registrations (original)	no.	Mar. 94	18 775	12 713	9 167	3 645	5 702	967	586	52 686
Dwelling units approved	no.	Mar. 94	4 316	2 905	5 017	1 031	2 422	330	133	16 512
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Mar. 94	169.3	165.3	136.5	29.6	49.7	6.7	25.9	596.7
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Mar. 94	664.7	476.8	632	111.5	250.7	36.3	38.2	2 263.1
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 93	974.9	505.2	717.7	184.3	457	60.4	60.1	3 001.5
Room nights occupied in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (trend)	no.	Sept. qtr 93	2 719.1	1 254.8	2 179.1	470.3	754.9	237.2	247.9	8 056.6

Figures in the above table are either preliminary, final, or revisions to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. — not available; p — preliminary data; n.p. — not available for publication. (a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.0, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

